

Delaware CEDS

*a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
for the State of Delaware*



Delaware CEDS – a program of the Delaware Economic Development Office
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SUSSEX REGION COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

September 20, 2005

7:00–9:00 p.m.

Millsboro Civic Center, Millsboro

Committee Members Present: Gerard Esposito (co-chair), Jeffrey Fried (co-chair), Harold Truxon, Jose Quiñones, Steve Masten, Robert Stickles, Judi Sciple (representing Ileana Smith), John Culp, Carole Orr, Tom Halverstadt

CEDS Support Staff: Julia O'Hanlon, Bernard Dworsky, Joe Farrell, Bill McGowan, Erik Hopkins

DEDO Staff Present: 0

Number of Public Participants Present: 3

Julia O'Hanlon, the University of Delaware's Institute for Public Administration Sussex County CEDS Committee Coordinator, initiated the evening's meeting with introductions of all University of Delaware Institute for Public Administration (IPA) staff, Sussex County Committee members and public attendees. Ms. O'Hanlon, through a brief presentation, explained the CEDS process and its implications throughout the county and state.

Following Ms. O'Hanlon's presentation, Bill McGowan, from the University of Delaware's Cooperative Extension, explained to committee members and public attendees their specific roles within the CEDS process. The presentation included an overview of the meeting agenda, along with the agenda of succeeding meetings.

Mr. McGowan then facilitated a breakout group activity designed to identify the county's Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT). The five groups (comprising both committee members and the general public) were asked to represent their opinions regarding county and state economic conditions on flipcharts. Each person assigned to a group was provided the opportunity to contribute his or her ideas and opinions.

After the SWOT exercise, the following questions were posed to the group in preparation for the next county committee member:

- What is special about the county?
- What would you change about the county?
- What will be different in 5–10 years?
- What needs to happen?

Before the close of the meeting, committee members and public attendees were given time to pose questions or comments. Committee members expressed an interest in trying to increase participation at the committee meetings through personal contacts with absent members and by encouraging colleagues and community group representatives to attend subsequent meetings.